

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 AID-05 /041 W

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R 240855Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5789

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TAIPEI 3748

EO 11652 NA

TAGS ECON TW

SUBJECT: GROC ADMITS CANCELLATION OF ORDERS FOR TWO
SUPER-TANKERS AT NEW CHINA SHIPBUILDING
CORPORATION (CSC) SHIPYARD

REF: (A) TAIPEI 1571 AND (B) TAIPEI A-92

1. IN REF (B) EMBASSY REPORTED DENIAL APRIL 30 BY
ADMIRAL WANG HSIEN-TENG, CHAIRMAN OF CSC, THAT CONTRACTS
TO CONSTRUCT FOUR 450,000 TANKERS FOR GATX HAD BEEN
CANCELLED. NEVERTHELESS, REPORTS HAVE CONTINUED TO
APPEAR IN LOCAL PRESS SINCE APRIL 30 THAT BECAUSE OF
WORLD OVERSUPPLY OF TANKERS CSC WILL HAVE TO ABANDON
ITS PLANS TO BUILD SUPER-TANKERS AND CONCENTRATE INSTEAD
ON CONSTRUCTING SMALLER TANKERS, GENERAL CARGO SHIPS,
CONTAINER SHIPS AND SPECIALIZED SHIPS SUCH AS OIL
DRILLING RIGS AND PLATFORMS.

2. ASKED TO COMMENT ON THESE RECENT PRESS REPORTS
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS Y.S. SUN (SUN YUN-HSUAN)
TOLD AMBASSADOR AND ECON COMM COUNS JUNE 23 THAT TWO
SUPER-TANKERS WILL BE BUILT FOR GATX AS SCHEDULED.
IRREVOCABLE L/C'S HAVE ALREADY BEEN OPENED AND KEEL
OF FIRST VESSEL WILL BE LAID IN AUGUST 1975. SUN
ADMITTED THAT OTHER TWO SUPER-TANKERS PROBABLY WILL
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NOT BE BUILT.

3. EFFORTS BY CSC TO DEVELOP OTHER BUSINESS FOR NEW
SHIPYARD ARE MEETING WITH SOME SUCCESS, ACCORDING
TO CSC VICE PRESIDENT T.W. WU. HE STATED TO ECON COMM

COUNS JUNE 24 THAT CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION IN 1977
AND 1978 OF THREE 45,000 DWT BULK CARRIERS WILL BE
SIGNED IN JULY 1975 AND SHIP OVERHAUL AND REPAIR
FACILITY ALREADY HAS SEVERAL LONG-TERM CUSTOMERS
LINED UP.
UNGER

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Draft Date: 24 JUN 1975
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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